THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: David C. Racent et al

Serial No: 10/718,195 Filed: 11/20/2003

Examiner: Camtu Tran Nguyen Group Art Unit: 3743

For: **TROCAR SEAL SYSTEM**

Commissioner For Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R §1.56, the information listed in the attached PTO-1449 form is brought to the attention of the Examiner. A copy of the European Search Report for EP 05024301 is submitted herewith. Copies of the cited U.S. Patents (5542931A, 4978341A, AND 5391154A) is not provided pursuant to the waiver of this requirement under 37 C.F.R §1.98 for national applications filed after June 30, 2003. The foreign references (EP 0538060A and DE 3737121A1) are submitted herewith.

It is respectfully requested that the reference(s) cited with Form PTO-1449 herewith be considered during Examination of the above-identified application and made of record therein. This submission is believed to be in compliance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97 and 37 C.F.R. §1.98.

The citation of the listed item(s) is not a representation that it constitutes a complete or exhaustive listing of prior art or that it constitutes prior art. The item(s) listed is/are submitted in good faith, but is/are not intended to substitute for the Examiner's search. It is hoped, however, that in addition to apprising the Examiner, it will assist the Examiner in identifying fields of search and in making as full and complete a search as possible.

The filing of this information disclosure statement is not an admission that the information cited herein is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

- This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the filing date of this application.
- This information disclosure statement is being filed within three (3) months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application.

- To the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before the date of mailing of a first Office Action in connection with this case.
- Enclosed is a certificate under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (e)(i).
- Enclosed is a petition under 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (d)
- Please charge the petition fee of \$130.00 required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17 (i)(1) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- As set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.97 (c), to the best of Applicant(s) knowledge, this information disclosure statement is being filed before either the mailing of a final action under 37 C.F.R. §1.113 or the mailing of a notice of allowance under 37 C.F.R. §1.113, and is accompanied by the \$240.00 fee as provided for in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p).
- As set forth in 37 C.F.R. 1.97 (e) (1): That each item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the information disclosure statement.
- Please charge the \$240.00 fee required by 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) to Deposit Account No. 21-0550.
- Please charge any deficiency as well as any other fee(s) which may become due under 37 C.F.R. §1.16 and/or 37 C.F.R. §1.17 at any time during the pendency of this application, or credit any overpayment of such fee(s) to Deposit Account 21-0550. Also, in the event any extensions of time for responding are required for the pending application(s), please treat this paper as a petition to extend time as required and charge Deposit Account No. 21-0550 therefore **TWO COPIES OF THIS SHEET ARE ENCLOSED.**

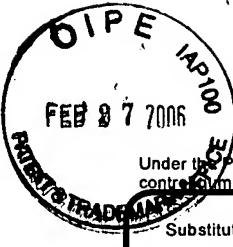
Early and favorable consideration of the case is respectfully requested.

Dated: 2/24/06

Michael D. Switzer

Michael D. Switzer
Reg. No. 39,552
Attorney for the Applicants

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 1 of 2

| | | | |
|--|---|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449A/PTO | | <i>Complete if Known</i> | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> | | Application Number | 10/718,195 |
| | | Filing Date | 11/20/2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | David C. Racenet, et al |
| | | Art Unit | 3743 |
| | | Examiner Name | Camtu Tran Nguyen |
| Sheet | 1 | of | 2 |
| | | Attorney Docket Number | |

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | | | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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|--|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Substitute for form 1449B/PTO | | Complete if Known | |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT | | Application Number | 10/718,195 |
| | | Filing Date | 11/20/2003 |
| | | First Named Inventor | David C. Racent et al |
| | | Group Art Unit | 3743 |
| | | Examiner Name | Camtu Tran Nguyen |
| (use as many sheets as necessary) | | Attorney Docket Number | 1879CON3 |
| Sheet | 2 | of | 2 |

OTHER PRIOR ART – NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

| | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|
| Examiner Signature | Date Considered | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|--|

***EXAMINER:** Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

1 Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). **2** Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

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